



# Sixth Form Courses 2026

A Sixth Form of Character and Excellence



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## Introduction

A Level Fine Art encourages students to look at the world around them and express their view visually. Through investigation students explore different approaches to artwork, different artist's views and different media including a heavy reliance on photography to inform their own ideas. The transferable analytical skills are useful for further education in general, personal development and a future career in the Arts. Drawing with different media is central to the qualification.

## Course Content

### **Component 1: Personal Investigation.**

Students generate and develop ideas, research primary and contextual sources, record practical and written observations, experiment with media and processes and refine ideas toward producing personal artwork. Three major elements are included: Supporting Studies – General investigations in artworks. Personal Study – Essay based on research and crucial analysis of Art (12% of total qualification). Practical Work – A body of practical study.

### **Component 2: Externally Set Assignment.**

Very similar to component one without the personal study. A theme is set by the examination board for the component and students must respond to it through their artwork. The component culminates in a 15-hour examination conducted in sittings over a given period of time.

## Method of Assessment

60% of A level is assessed through coursework with a further 40% through the externally set exam.

## Teaching Methods

The majority of learning at A Level comprises of developing practical skills, accompanied by the development of analytical skills which explore typical art themes such as still life and portrait, and the historical background behind artworks. As the course progresses the student leads their own learning, guided by their tutor. All units are based around field trips including visits to major art galleries in London, which students must attend. Student investigations are recorded in a work journal which documents progress.

## Career Opportunities

Progression through the Advanced level will provide suitable bases for further study in related subjects in Higher Education as well as a valuable preparation for careers in any area of Art or creative field. Previous students have gone on to study and pursue careers, in medicine, architecture, business and the RAF as well as Art specific careers.

## Introduction

Biology is the study of life and enables you to learn what it is that makes life tick. Some of the things you study will be sub-microscopic, like the tiny protein pumps in the membrane of a living cell, a hundred thousand of which can be fitted into one millimetre. Some of the things you study will be vast, like the global ecosystem, struggling under the impact of human activities. Some topics will seem abstract, like the biochemistry of photosynthesis. Some topics will seem very close to home like why do we sweat? Why do we bleed when cut? In Biology A level, you will get a glimpse of some of the amazing design solutions that animals and plants have come up with in their struggle to survive. Skins that change colour, eyes that can see in infrared. Kidneys so effective that their owners need never drink. You will be learning about living things; things that hunt and mate and replicate, things that can hold their breath for an hour, things that can change their sex. There is nothing as strange or fascinating as the reality of the living world.

## Course Content – Year 1

- ❖ **Unit 1:** Biological Molecules
- ❖ **Unit 2:** Cells
- ❖ **Unit 3:** Organisms and their environment
- ❖ **Unit 4:** Genetics and Relationships

## Course Content – Year 2

- ❖ **Unit 5:** Energy transfer
- ❖ **Unit 6:** Responding to change
- ❖ **Unit 7:** Population genetics, evolution and ecosystems
- ❖ **Unit 8:** Gene expression

## Method of Assessment

**Paper 1:** Units 1 to 4 - Two-hour paper – 35 % of A Level.

**Paper 2:** Units 5 – 8 – Two-hour paper – 35% of A Level.

**Paper 3:** Units 1 – 8 – Two-hour paper – 30% of A Level.

## Career Opportunities

If you want to be a doctor, a dentist, a physiotherapist, or a vet, then you need to study biology A-level. Nurses, opticians and pharmacologists also need to know their human biology. There are all sorts of challenging biology related jobs from genetic engineering to environmental consultancy. Even if you aren't going to do a job related to biology, it is still worth studying. It will give you a better appreciation of the incredible mechanism that is your own body and of the extraordinary diversity of living things. It will allow you to comment, in an informed way, on the crucial issues of your age, from the war against disease to the advance of GM foods to the destruction of the global environment. If you are interested in life, then Biology A level is for you.



# BTEC NATIONAL EXTENDED CERTIFICATE IN BUSINESS

## Introduction

This qualification helps students develop a critical understanding of business, to include exploring a business, developing a Marketing Campaign and Business Finance. A broad basis of study of the business world. This qualification is designed to support progression to higher education when taken as part of a programme of study that includes others appropriate BTEC Nationals or A Levels.

## Course Content

**Year 1:** Exploring Business, Personal & Business Finance

**Year 2:** Developing a Marketing Campaign, Recruitment and Selection

## Method of Assessment

**Year 1:** Unit 1: Exploring Business (coursework), Unit 3: Personal and Business Finance (exam)

**Year 2:** Unit 2: Developing a Marketing Campaign (controlled assessment), Unit 8: Recruitment and Selection (coursework)

## Teaching Methods

The course is delivered through formally taught lessons and independent course work lessons, along with group work and presentational development. During the lesson we focus on developing critical thinking skills along with developing extended writing skills to access the higher grade boundaries.

## Career Opportunities

This qualification is designed to support progression to higher education when taken as part of a programme of study that includes other appropriate BTEC or A Level qualification, as well as a valuable preparation for careers in any area of business, such as banking, recruitment, marketing and human resources.

# BUSINESS STUDIES

## Introduction

A-level Business Studies helps students develop a critical understanding of business organisations, the markets they serve and the process of adding value to a business. Students will develop their ability to acquire a range of important and transferable skills including data skills, presenting arguments, making judgments and conducting research. This course prepares you for the world of Business and further education. This course has no coursework or controlled assessment.

## Course Content

**Year 1:** What is business? Managers, leadership and decision making. Decision making to improve marketing performance. Decision making to improve operational performance. Decision making to improve financial performance. Decision making to improve human resource performance.

**Year 2:** Analysing the strategic position of a business. Choosing strategic direction. Strategic methods: how to pursue strategies. Managing strategic change

## Method of Assessment

AQA- General Certificate of Business Studies.

**Paper 1** – 33.3% and the A Level exam is 2 hours.

**Paper 2** – 33.3% and the A Level exam is 2 hours.

**Paper 3** – 33.3% and the A Level exam is 2 hours.

## Teaching Methods

The course is delivered through formally taught lessons, along with group work and presentational development. During the lesson we focus on developing critical thinking skills along with developing extended writing skills to access the higher grade boundaries.

## Career Opportunities

Progression through the A-Level will provide suitable bases for further study in related subjects in Higher Education as well as a valuable preparation for careers in any area of business.

# CHEMISTRY

## Introduction

Chemistry underpins our modern society. From plastics and man-made materials like nylon and polyester, to washing your hair with shampoo or taking antibiotics, you rely on discoveries that Chemists have made every day of your life. Chemistry is the science that makes a difference to us all. It is a science that provides solutions. Becoming a Chemist gives you the opportunity to work in fields that: develop new, 'designer' materials; research and develop new medicines; investigate crimes with forensic techniques; and make new developments in food science.

## Course Content

Over the course of 2 years, you will study 6 modules: 1,2,3, and 4 in year 1; and 1,5, and 6 in year 2.

1. Practical skills – planning, implementing, analysis and evaluation.
2. Physical chemistry - 3.1.1 Atomic structure, 3.1.2 Amount of substance, 3.1.3 Bonding, 3.1.4 Energetics, 3.1.5 Kinetics, 3.1.6 Chemical equilibria, Le Chatelier's principle and  $K_c$ , 3.1.7 Oxidation, reduction and redox equations, 3.1.8 Thermodynamics (A-level only), 3.1.9 Rate equations (A-level only), 3.1.10 Equilibrium constant  $K_p$  for homogeneous systems (A-level only), 3.1.11 Electrode potentials and electrochemical cells (A-level only), 3.1.12 Acids and bases (A-level only)
3. Inorganic chemistry - 3.2.1 Periodicity, 3.2.2 Group 2, the alkaline earth metals, 3.2.3 Group 7(17), the halogens, 3.2.4 Properties of Period 3 elements and their oxides (A-level only), 3.2.5 Transition metals (A-level only), 3.2.6 Reactions of ions in aqueous solution (A-level only)
4. Organic chemistry - 3.3.1 Introduction to organic chemistry, 3.3.2 Alkanes, 3.3.3 Halogenoalkanes, 3.3.4 Alkenes, 3.3.5 Alcohols, 3.3.6 Organic analysis, 3.3.7 Optical isomerism (A-level only), 3.3.8 Aldehydes and ketones (A-level only), 3.3.9 Carboxylic acids and derivatives (A-level only), 3.3.10 Aromatic chemistry (A-level only), 3.3.11 Amines (A-level only), 3.3.12 Polymers (A-level only), 3.3.13 Amino acids, proteins and DNA (A-level only), 3.3.14 Organic synthesis (A-level only), 3.3.15 Nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy (A-level only), 3.3.16 Chromatography (A-level only)

## Method of Assessment

### A Level: 3 terminal exams

**Paper 1:** Relevant physical chemistry topics (sections 3.1.1 to 3.1.4, 3.1.6 to 3.1.8 and 3.1.10 to 3.1.12), Inorganic chemistry (section 3.2), Relevant practical skills (35%)

**Paper 2:** Relevant physical chemistry topics (sections 3.1.2 to 3.1.6 and 3.1.9), Organic chemistry (section 3.3), Relevant practical skills (35%)

**Paper 3:** Any content, any practical skills (30%)

**Practical Endorsement:** Reported separately.

## Career Opportunities

Marie Curie the Nobel Prize Winning Chemist said: "Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood." Studying Chemistry offers you the chance to understand. Chemistry could be the vital element for your future especially if you want to be a doctor, a dentist, a physiotherapist, or a vet. It is highly regarded and a facilitating subject.

# COMPUTER SCIENCE

## Introduction

Computer Science encourages students to be problem solvers. The course is academic in nature and covers some theory elements in depth, while also placing an equal emphasis on programming and developing solutions to problems.

## Course Content – Year 1

The course is organised into a series of subject content modules which are then assessed across two exams and a practical project.

**Paper 1** will be theory based, covering fundamentals of data representation, computer systems, computer organisation and architecture, communication and networking, databases and functional programming, and consequences of using computers.

**Paper 2** will test a student's ability to program along with their knowledge of the fundamentals of programming, data structures and algorithms, theory of computation and systematic approach to problem solving.

The Computing Practical Project is internally assessed through coursework. Students will be expected to solve or investigate a practical problem, following a systematic approach to problem solving. This specification encourages candidates to gain an understanding of systematic methods – such as the use of algorithms and test strategies, the maintenance of computer systems, and the skills associated with documenting solutions – and encourages candidates to further develop skills associated with applying this knowledge and understanding to producing computer-based solutions to real problems.

## Method of Assessment

Examination board: OCR Advanced Level GCE in Computer Science. Three units, one internally assessed, the other two being externally assessed.

## Teaching Methods

Computing is a practical subject, but does encompass a rigorous theoretical base. Both theory and practical lessons take place in the ICT suites. A high level of programming skill is taught and developed through the use of software which student can download for free at home. Coursework is individually produced and supported by experienced staff.

## Career Opportunities

Computing students develop technical skills and knowledge as well as the ability to communicate clearly, plan and manage a project and solve complex problems. A qualification in Computing opens up an incredible world of opportunities for work, not only in the technology industry but also in supporting roles within other industries – from designing and building software for phones and gadgets to designing systems used by major corporations.



# ART AND DESIGN: TEXTILES

## Introduction

A-Level Art and Design Textiles Design is a dynamic, creative and exciting subject to study. The course is highly experimental and exploratory, if you are interested in working with a range of different textile materials and processes, including hand and machine embroidery, fabric manipulation fabric dyeing, printing, pattern and garment construction, the course would be a great choice for you. Textile design students will develop their individual and innovative approach to textile design, with the teachers support. You will develop, explore, and record your investigations and design ideas within a portfolio and demonstrate this with an essay of 1500-3000 words. Textile design students will gain a real understanding of what it means to be a textile designer, alongside the knowledge and creative skills sought by higher education and employers.

## Course Content

A-Level Art and Design Textile Design course requires students to produce practical and critical/contextual work in one or more areas of textile design, for example, fashion design, fashion textiles, costume design, digital textiles, printed and/or dyed fabrics and materials, interior design, constructed textiles, art textiles and installed textiles. Students will be expected to demonstrate an overarching knowledge, understanding and skills, in the context of their chosen area(s) of textile design.

Students undertake a series of workshops to explore and develop practical skills whilst recording and responding to these experimental experiences within your sketchbook. You will be taught how to create a sketchbook and how to capture, record and develop your ideas and outcomes. We explore how you can design your page layout, learn the terminology for recording techniques, analysing samples and the work of others.

## Method of Assessment

### Component 1: Personal investigation

What's assessed: Personal investigation into textile design.

Students are required to conduct a practical investigation, into an idea, issue, concept or theme, supported by written material. The focus of the investigation must be identified independently by the student and must lead to a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes.

Assessed:

- No time limit
- 60% of A-level

### Component 2: Externally set assignment

What's assessed: Response to an externally set textile design assignment.

Question paper will be provided by the exam board. The question paper will consist of a choice of eight questions to be used as starting points.

Students are required to select **one**. Following receipt of the paper students should consider the starting points and select one.

Preparatory work

should be presented in any suitable format. Following the preparatory period, students must complete 15 hours of unaided, supervised time.

Assessed:

- Preparatory period + 15 hours supervised time
- 40% of A-level

## Teaching Methods

During lessons students are delivered and supported with practical workshops for a range of different textile design techniques. There is an expectation that students will continue to develop their sketchbook work outside of the classroom. Each student is encouraged to take ownership of the project as the project evolves.

**Equipment Required** – A range of graphical equipment, including pencils, fine liners, rule, and pencil crayons to allow design ideas to be communicated.

## Career Opportunities

Students who study A-Level Art and Design Textile Design can go onto study degrees in textile design, fashion design, surface pattern, fashion marketing and costume design to name a few. The course will provide you with the skills to develop a rich and vibrant portfolio of work. The Textile Design course will give you numerous skills and opportunities for career paths in a variety of creative industries such as fashion design, styling, textile design for fashion & interiors, interior design, fashion merchandising, buying, and marketing, illustration & graphic design, industrial design, textile engineering, production management and product design to name a few. The above course develops skills that support university and career progression and provides you with the skills to develop a rich and vibrant portfolio of work.

# ENGLISH LITERATURE

## Introduction

Studying English Literature transforms students into confident, independent readers and sharp-minded critics of texts. In lively seminar-style lessons, you'll dive into debate and discussion, unpacking narratives, exploring big themes, and challenging different interpretations. It's a chance to sharpen your voice, think critically, and engage with literature in fresh and thought-provoking ways.

## Course Content

### **Paper 1 – Literary Genres: Aspects of Tragedy (Closed book exam = 40%)**

Students will study the Tragedy genre, specifically focusing on Shakespeare's 'Othello', Miller's 'Death of a Salesman' and a collection of Keats' poetry.

### **Paper 2 – Texts and Genres: Elements of Crime Writing (Open book exam = 40%)**

Students will study the Crime Writing genre, specifically focusing on Atkinson's 'When Will There Be Good News?', Coleridge's 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner' and Agatha Christie's 'The Murder of Roger Ackroyd'.

### **Non-Examined Assessment (coursework) – Theory and Independence (Two essays of 1250-1500 words each = 20%)**

For each coursework project, students get to dive into two completely different worlds of literature – choosing one prose author and one poet – while exploring fresh perspectives through the Critical Anthology. Whether it's Marxism, Feminism, Eco-criticism, or Colonization, each piece becomes an opportunity to uncover new layers of meaning and make powerful, original connections.

## Method of Assessment

80% Exam (two separate papers – detailed above) & 20% Coursework (two separate essays – detailed above).

## Teaching Methods

Lessons will be lively and discussion-driven, with students at the heart of exploring big ideas, debates, and philosophies within the texts. You'll sharpen your close-analysis skills and develop powerful, persuasive writing – learning how to turn your opinions into convincing, well-argued points. Beyond the classroom, you'll take charge of your own learning through independent research and wider weekly reading, giving you the chance to discover fresh perspectives and deepen your understanding of the works we study.

## Career Opportunities

Studying English Literature isn't just about reading great books – it's about mastering the art of communication, persuasion, and critical thinking. These are skills that open doors to a varied range of careers where clear, powerful expression is key. From Law, Teaching, Journalism, Media, Marketing, and Politics to roles in Publishing, Public Relations, Creative Writing, Business, and Management, English Literature graduates are highly valued for their ability to analyse, argue, and inspire. Whether you want to influence change, shape ideas, lead teams, or tell stories that matter, this subject provides a strong foundation for success across countless professional paths.

# MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES : FRENCH

## Introduction

A Modern Foreign Language A Level offers students the opportunity to study a range of literature which gives an insight into the cultural, social, commercial and political background of the country of study. The language of study will also be developed to a high level of fluency both written and spoken offering enjoyment and intellectual stimulation. In addition to the focus on speaking the language confidently and coherently, learners will increase their knowledge of the countries and communities where the language is spoken by their study of language in its cultural, literary and social context as well as through film and literature.

## Course Content

Our AQA A Level in French encourages the development of valuable transferable skills, such as reading, listening, speaking and translation. In addition, learners develop the ability to write critically and analytically about a film and a literary text in the target language. As part of the speaking test learners are required to conduct individual research on a subject of personal interest, relating to the country or countries where the language is spoken which will enable them to develop valuable research skills in the language of study. The areas of study reflect learner's interest as well as deepen their knowledge of issues which are relevant to the target language countries and communities:

- ❖ Stereotypes
- ❖ Social Movements (Labour rights)
- ❖ Equality and gender
- ❖ Modern world issues
- ❖ Modern History
- ❖ Aspects of artistic culture
- ❖ Aspects of political culture
- ❖ Students will also study grammar in depth.

## Method of Assessment

Learners take components 01, 02 and 03 to be awarded the A Level.

Component 01: Comprehension / Written paper / Total marks: 100 - 2 hours 30 mins

- ❖ Listening, Reading: Writing and into English: (50%)

Component 02: Writing about film / written paper / total marks: 80 - 2 hours

- ❖ Writing in French, Translation into French (20%)

Component 03: Speaking / Total marks: 60 - 21-23 minutes + 5 min preparation time

- ❖ Discussion of stimulus card: 25 marks, Research project: 35 marks (30%)

## Teaching Methods

The course is delivered through formally taught lessons together. The language will be developed to a high level of fluency and will be used to analyse, hypothesise, evaluate and develop arguments and viewpoints in speech and writing.

## Career Opportunities

The obvious careers for languages students and graduates are as interpreters and translators. Careers in the diplomatic service and telecommunications also often require an aptitude for languages. Language students' interest in their degree subject often goes beyond a simple desire to understand the language and includes a passion for foreign cultures as well. This could be a great advantage in the business world. Many blue-chip multinational recruiters want employees who have a global outlook and are sensitive to cultural differences. With additional training you could also consider a career in one of these areas: teaching, tourism, business, politics, public relations, human resources, distribution or logistics management, marketing, publishing, journalism, accounting, law.

# GEOGRAPHY

## Introduction

As the world and human society truly begins to feel the pressures of resource depletion, over population and climate change the importance of understanding these extraordinary challenges is becoming increasingly apparent. The issues of environmental damage and energy management already permeate almost every industry and are foremost in current and future government policy making due to their connections to economic security. The topics studied in A level geography will shape the future of our planet and every species that depends on it.

## Course Content

### Component 1: Physical Geography

Section A: Water and carbon cycles

Section B: Coastal systems and landscapes

Section C: Hazards

### Component 2: Human Geography

Section A: Global systems and global governance

Section B: Changing places

Section C: Contemporary Urban Environments

### Component 3: Non-Examination Assessment

## Method of Assessment

### Component 1: Physical Geography

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes – 96 marks - 40% of A-level - Section A: answer all questions (27 marks) -

Section B: answer question 4 (27 marks) - Section C: answer either question 6 (42 marks)

### Component 2: Human Geography

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes - 96 marks - 40% of A-level - Section A: answer all questions (27 marks) -

Section B: answer all questions (27 marks) - Section C: answer question 6 (42 marks)

### Component 3: Non-Examination Assessment

Students complete an individual investigation which must include data collected in the field. The individual investigation must be based on a question or issue defined and developed by the student relating to any part of the specification content. 3,000–4,000 words - 35 marks - 20% of A-level

## Career Opportunities

With a qualification in Geography you can go on to Higher Education to study: Oceanography; Cartography; Nature conservation; Waste Management; Land Surveying; Town Planning; Meteorology; Geology; Landscape Architecture; Traffic Planning; Geomorphology; Hydrography; Travel Consultancy.



# HISTORY

## Introduction

Studying A-Level History is more than just exploring the past - it's about understanding the forces that have shaped our world today. History challenges students to think critically, evaluate evidence, and develop reasoned arguments. It cultivates a deep awareness of how societies evolve, how power is exercised, and how individuals and movements have influenced change. History equips you with analytical skills and intellectual curiosity that are highly valued in both academic and professional settings. It's a subject that encourages debate, reflection, and a lifelong appreciation for the complexity of human experience.

## Course Content

Using the AQA exam board:

Paper 1: Breadth Study (40%) - Tsarist and Communist Russia

Paper 2: Depth Study (40%) - The English Revolution

NEA/Coursework (20%) - USA Black Civil Rights Movement.

## Method of Assessment

Both units are examined at the end of Year 13 apart from the coursework which is due in by the end of Year 12.

## Teaching Methods

The course is delivered through formally taught lessons. The study of A-level History requires much out of lesson learning so students of the subject must be prepared to complete this.

## Career Opportunities

With a qualification in History, you could go on to Higher Education, not just to study History, but any one of the many Arts and Social Science courses available. History is viewed as a great facilitation subject by many universities. This means a good a-level grade in history makes you suitable to a wide range of university courses at many top universities. With or without a degree, you can use a History qualification to work in a great variety of jobs in business and administration, the police service, the law, journalism and the media (as well as the more obvious careers, like teaching or working in museums and libraries). The skills you gain from studying History mean that you have the ability to weigh up both sides of an argument, make sense of and synthesise different forms of evidence, and become an analytical academic.

# MATHEMATICS

## Introduction

Mathematics is an important and interesting subject on its own but it is also a facilitating subject as the knowledge and [understanding](#) gained is useful when applied to numerous other fields. It is extremely useful in supporting other A Levels with mathematical content such as, Sciences, Geography and Business Studies. It is also a required by many universities in their offers for courses including Physics, Engineering, Mathematics, Economics, Robotics, Computer Science, Biology, and Chemistry, along with many more.

## Course Content

For the A Level qualification students take 3 papers each 100 marks with a duration of 2 hours:

**Paper 1 and Paper 2 (66.7%)** - The first two papers test the Pure mathematics taught in both year 12 and year 13 which includes big 'tent pole' topics such as Differentiation, Integration and Trigonometry. As well as other minor topics such as Numerical Methods, Proof, Functions and Sequences & Series.

**Paper 3 (33.3%)** – The last paper is applied mathematics and tests students on Statistics and Mechanics topics taught in both year 12 and year 13. Topics in Statistics include Hypothesis Testing, Binomial and Normal Distributions and Correlation. Topics in Mechanics include the Equations of Constant Acceleration, Forces and Moments.

## Method of Assessment

Examination board: Edexcel.

The A Level is examined at the end of year 13 with three 2 hour papers each of equal weighting as described above.

## Teaching Methods

The course is delivered through formally taught lessons. Pupils are expected to keep up with regular homework and review their own learning. Students will be expected to provide their own scientific calculators are essential (specifically the Casio fx-991ES plus – note, this is an upgrade on the model currently used at GCSE) and graphical calculators/computers are also used.

## Career Opportunities

University courses in Physics, Engineering, Mathematics, Economics, Robotics, Computer Science, Biology, and Chemistry along with many more. In the local area there are many opportunities in the automotive or aeronautical engineering sector – opportunities include anything from working for a Formula 1 team in one of the many technology centres near Silverstone, to designing aircraft at Sywell Aerodrome.

# FURTHER MATHEMATICS

## Introduction

You can choose to take Further Maths in addition to A-level Mathematics. Students who opt for Further Maths will study for 2 A-levels: one in Mathematics and one in Further Maths. In the first year you study the entire A-level Maths specification and sit external examinations in June of Year 12. (See below for more details). In the second year you study the entire A-level Further Maths specification and sit external examinations in June of Year 13.

## Course Content

In year 12 you study A-level Mathematics: See the A-level Mathematics leaflet for more details on course content.

In year 13 you study two core pure modules:

**Core Pure Mathematics 1** – Proof, complex numbers, matrices, as well as further algebra, calculus and vectors.

And one of the following options:

**Core Pure Mathematics 2** – Complex numbers, polar coordinates, hyperbolic functions, differential equations and further algebra and calculus.

As well as 2 options from:

**Further Statistics** – Linear regression, discrete and continuous statistical distributions, hypothesis testing and Chi-squared tests.

**Further Mechanics** – Momentum and impulse, collisions, centres of mass, work and energy, elastic strings and springs.

**Decision Maths** – Algorithms and graph theory, critical path analysis and linear programming.

## Method of Assessment

A-level in Mathematics is assessed by **3 papers** each of **100 marks** lasting **2 hours** taken at the end of **year 12**.

**Paper 1 & 2 (66.7%)** – assess the A-level Maths pure content

**Paper 3 (33.3%)** – assess the Statistics and Mechanics content in two sections each worth 50 marks.

There is also an option to retake these papers at the end of year 13 to improve the grade achieved at the end of year 12 this is common nationally as you would expect a student to get better at A-level Maths having now studied A-level Further Maths too. Further Maths students have higher outcomes in Maths both nationally and at Northampton Academy as you may well expect for students who have studied twice as much maths.

A-level in Further Maths is assessed by **4 papers** each of **75 marks** lasting **90 minutes** taken at the end of **year 13**.

**Papers 1 & 2 (50%)** – assesses core pure maths taught in Further Maths.

**Paper 3 & 4 (50%)** – assess the options you have chosen one paper on each option.

## Teaching Methods

The course is delivered through formally taught lessons. Pupils are expected to keep up with regular homework and review their own learning. Students will be expected to provide their own scientific calculators which are essential (specifically the Casio fx-991ES plus – note, this is an upgrade on the model currently used at GCSE) and graphical calculators/computers are also used. The mathematical skills you learn in A Level Mathematics are of great benefit in other A Level subjects such as physics, chemistry, biology, computing, geography, psychology, economics and business studies.

## Career Opportunities

University courses in Physics, Engineering, Mathematics, Economics, Robotics, Computer Science, Biology, and Chemistry along with many more will highly desire the additional knowledge and skills developed by taking Further Maths in addition to the single A-level in Maths. In the local area there are many opportunities in the automotive or aeronautical engineering sector – opportunities include anything from working for a Formula 1 team in one of the many technology centres near Silverstone, to designing aircraft at Sywell aerodrome.

# MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES : SPANISH

## Introduction – What is Spanish?

Spanish is the second most spoken language in the world, but the A level course is more than just a language. It embraces an appreciation of Hispanic culture and society, including the critical study of literature and film, and multiculturalism and political life.

## What is included on the course:

The A level specification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE. It constitutes an integrated study with a focus on language, culture and society. It fosters a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research and creativity, which are valuable to the individual and society. The content is suitable for students who wish to progress to employment or to further study, including a modern languages degree. In the first year, aspects of the social context are studied, together with aspects of the artistic life of Spanish speaking countries:

Aspects of Hispanic society: Los valores tradicionales y modernos, El ciberespacio, La igualdad de los derechos.

Artistic culture in the Hispanic world: La influencia de los ídolos, La identidad regional en España, El patrimonio cultural.

In the second, year further aspects of the social background are covered, this time focusing on matters associated with multiculturalism. Students also study aspects of the political landscape including the future of political life in the Spanish speaking world by focusing on young people and their political engagement:

Multiculturalism in Hispanic society: La inmigración, El racismo, La convivencia y la integración.

Aspects of political life in the Hispanic world: Jóvenes de hoy - ciudadanos de mañana, Monarquías y dictaduras, Movimientos sociales.

At least one film and literary text in the foreign language will be studied. Authentic materials such as magazine and newspaper articles and interactive websites are used to supplement course texts.

Current course film: Volver

Current course literature: Como agua para chocolate

## Methods of Assessment:

Paper 1 - Listening, Reading and

Writing (2 hours 30 minutes) 50% Paper 2 - Literature and Film writing (2 hours) 20%

Paper 3 - Speaking (21-23 minutes including 5 minutes preparation time) 30%

## Why students choose this course:

The study of a Modern Foreign Language at A level is highly flexible and well suited to almost all subject combinations. Studying Spanish A level will allow you to acquire the knowledge, skills and understanding for practical use, further study and employment. It will provide you with the linguistic skills demanded at undergraduate level. It will allow you to gain an appreciation of a different culture as well as challenging you to think from a different perspective. It will also improve your English. As the 8th Century emperor Charlemagne put it, to speak another language is to possess another soul.

## Career Potential:

It is the logical way to study Spanish at undergraduate level, opening an extremely wide variety of career options which are not exclusive to:

- Translating and interpreting
- Teaching
- Tourism and hospitality
- Publishing and business services
- Law
- Broadcasting and journalism
- Business and economics
- Government and politics
- Sales and marketing
- Transport and logistics



# BTEC EXTENDED CERTIFICATE PERFORMING ARTS

## Introduction

BTEC Level 3 national extended certificate in Performing arts is designed for:

- learners who are interested in learning about the performing arts sector alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses.
- It is designed to be taken as part of a programme of study that includes other appropriate BTEC Nationals or A Levels.
- The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Performing Arts is intended as an Applied General qualification. It is designed for post-16 learners with an interest in performing arts who want to continue their education through applied learning, and who aim to progress to higher education.
- The qualification is equivalent in size to one A Level and is designed to occupy one-third of a typical study programme, which could include other vocational or academic qualifications, such as further BTEC Nationals or A Levels.
- This qualification gives a broad introduction to the performing arts sector with an emphasis on core knowledge and fundamental skills which are transferable across other sectors (including communication, presentation, physical and creative skills).

## Weightings:

4 units, 3 of which are mandatory and 2 are external.

### Assessment Method and Component Percentages:

**Unit 1:** Investigating practitioners work- **60 marks** (external) – Written coursework will be created for this.

**Unit 2:** Developing skills and Techniques for Live Performance (internal) performance log, workshops and performance and evaluation created for this.

**Unit 3:** Group Performance workshop – **60 marks** (external) – Logbook/ pictures/ documents will be created for this.

**Unit 4:** (optional, see below) (internal)

## How will I learn?

You will learn using a variety of methods including:

- Classroom based group activities
- Video analysis
- Practical workshops and performance
- Research tasks

## Departmental Expectations:

- Actively involved in drama/music/ dance within the Academy.
- Experience of the performing arts
- Willingness to collaborate within a group.
- To have some creative skills in order to create pieces of theatre.
- Have a thirst to learn in theory and practical lessons alongside a genuine interest for the subject.
- Talented with basic skills and techniques for performing arts.
- Have adequate literacy skills to complete written work.

**Career Potential:** Actor, costume designer, stage manager, director, technician, lighting designer, sound designer, theatre manager, music composer

**Future Progression routes possible:** Higher education. Theatre school

# PHOTOGRAPHY

## Introduction

A Level Photography encourages students to look at the world around them and express their view visually. Through investigation students explore different approaches to photography and art, different practitioners', including the investigation of other creative media as well as photography to inform their own ideas. The transferable analytical skills are useful for further education in general, personal development and a future career in Art and Design. Drawing with different media is central to the qualification.

## Course Content

### **Component 1: Personal Investigation.**

Students generate and develop ideas, research primary and contextual sources, record practical and written observations, experiment with media and processes and refine ideas toward producing personal artwork. Three major elements are included: Supporting Studies – General investigations in artworks. Personal Study – Essay based on research and crucial analysis of photography and art (12% of total qualification). Practical Work – A body of practical study.

### **Component 2: Externally Set Assignment.**

Very similar to component one without the personal study. A theme is set by the examination board for the component and students must respond to it through their photographic work. The component culminates in a 15 hour examination conducted in sittings over a given period of time.

## Method of Assessment

60% of A level is assessed through coursework with a further 40% through the externally set exam.

## Teaching Methods

The majority of learning at A level comprises of developing practical skills, accompanied by the development of analytical skills which explore typical photographic and art themes such as still life and portrait, and the historical background behind them. As the course progresses the student leads their own learning, guided by their tutor. All units are based around field trips including visits to major art galleries in London, which students must attend. Student investigations are recorded in a work journal which documents progress.

## Career Opportunities

Progression through the Advanced level will provide suitable bases for further study in related subjects in Higher Education as well as a valuable preparation for careers in any area of Art and Design or creative field. Previous students have gone onto study and pursue careers, in medicine, architecture, business and the RAF as well as creative specific careers.

# PHYSICS

## Introduction

'A Physicists journey starts with putting two numbers together and ends with taking the universe apart'. If you have an enquiring mind, enjoy a challenge and like solving problems, give yourself the best chance by studying Physics. From the smallest particles inside the atom to the great clusters of galaxies Physics helps us to understand how our world works. The applications, like the career opportunities are immense. Employers and further education centers today actively seek out people who can prove their ability to think logically, understand complex ideas and can apply them to the real world.

## Course Content

Over the two year course you will study 6 modules:

- ❖ Practical Skills in Physics – skills of planning, implementing, analysis and evaluation.
- ❖ Measurements and their errors – what is required for effective measurement and handling of uncertainty.
- ❖ Particles and radiation – Fundamental structure of matter, the interaction of matter and quantum phenomena
- ❖ Waves – properties of waves, effects of waves and optics.
- ❖ Mechanics and materials – The study of Newton's laws, momenta, energy, power, and material structure
- ❖ Electricity – electrical components, circuits and their properties.
- ❖ Further mechanics and thermal physics – circular and simple harmonic motion, gas laws and kinetic theory
- ❖ Fields and their consequences – electric, gravitational and magnetic fields and capacitance along with AC electricity.
- ❖ Astrophysics – Origins of the Universe, observing the Universe and Cosmology.

## Method of Assessment

### A-Level: 3 terminal exams

Paper 1: Periodic motion and particles and radiation through to electricity (34%)

Paper 2: Thermal physics, nuclear physics and fields (34%)

Paper 3: Section A: Practical skills, section B: Astrophysics (32%)

## Teaching Methods

The course is based around worked done is lesson – practical work, theory, practice and research. Students are expected to carry out much work outside the lesson to consolidate their knowledge and practice concepts. Each week you will be given an assignment / hand out to complete which is then assessed by a weekly test.

## Career Opportunities

Your Physics qualification will be welcomed in an amazing variety of careers and further education courses including Physics, Engineering, Mathematics, Accounting and Product Design. The subject is highly regarded in the Engineering and Finance sectors.

## Introduction

Politics at A Level represents the demands of a truly modern and evolving political environment in the UK and around the world. Students will study UK politics and UK government, which provides a set of core knowledge and understanding. Students will also study three core political ideas and feminism. They will then study the government and politics of the USA providing the breadth and depth to study Politics at university and to be able to confidently participate in Politics in the UK.

## Course Content

### Component 1: UK Politics and Core Political Ideas

There are four content areas:

1. Democracy and participation
2. Political parties
3. Electoral systems
4. Voting behaviour and the media

There are three content areas in Core Political Ideas:

1. Liberalism
2. Conservatism
3. Socialism

### Component 2: UK Government and Non-core Political Ideas

1. The constitution
2. Parliament
3. Prime Minister and executive
4. Relations between the branches.
5. Feminism

### Component 3: USA

1. The constitution and Federalism
2. Congress
3. President
4. Supreme Court and Civil Rights
5. Democracy and Participation

## Method of Assessment

### Component 1: UK Politics and Core Political Ideas

Written exam: 2 hours 84 marks - 33% of A-level - Section A: Answer one question from a choice of 2 (source; 30 marks) one question from a choice of 2 (non-source; 30 marks) - Section B: answer one question from a choice of 2 (24 marks).

### Component 2: UK Government and Non-core Political Ideas

Written exam: 2 hours - 84 marks - 33% of A-level - Section A: One question from a choice of 2 (source; 30 marks) one question from a choice of 2 (non-source; 30 marks) - Section B: answer one question from a choice of 2 (24 marks).



### Component 3: USA – Comparative Politics

Written exam: 2 hours - 84 marks - 33% of A-level - Section A: One question from a choice of 2 (12 marks) – Section B: answer one question from a choice of 2 (12 marks) - Section C: answer two questions from a choice of 3 (30 marks x2; 60 marks total).

### Career Opportunities

With a qualification in Politics you can go on to Higher Education to study a wide variety of degrees leading to a range of careers including: **International relations, marketing, business, research and administrative professions, Law, HR, PR, finance, analytics, roles in political parties, government, local councils and as civil servants.**

Politics is assessed through extended writing and requires students to be able to retain and understand key concepts and ideas. The themes form the basis for students to develop opinions, evaluate and include relevant and current examples. An active interest in the news and current affairs is essential, students need to watch/listen to/read the news and have opinions on it!

## Introduction

Psychology is the scientific study of the brain, the mind and mental processes. The psychologist is interested in all aspects of the human behaviour, both normal and abnormal.

## Course Content

### ***Paper 1: Introductory Topics of Psychology***

- Social Influence, Memory, Attachment, Psychopathology

### ***Paper 2: Psychology in Context***

- Approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology, Research Methods

### ***Paper 3: Issues & Options in Psychology***

- Relationships, Schizophrenia, Forensic Psychology, Issues and Debates

## Method of Assessment

All Papers – Two hour written exam, 96 Marks, 33.3% of A-Level.

## Teaching Methods

The course is delivered through formally taught lessons with a major emphasis on interpersonal and collaborative group learning, discussion and independent learning.

## Career Opportunities

Psychology is an excellent choice studied in combination with Sociology, Biology and other Science subjects. It offers insight into the human mind and all aspects of human behaviour. Progression through the advanced level will provide a suitable basis for further study in related subjects in Higher Education as well as a valuable preparation for careers in areas where Psychology may be used. Understanding 'What makes people tick' and how their mind works are indeed crucial for any aspect of human existence.

# RELIGIOUS STUDIES

## Introduction

Religious Studies is one of the most challenging A Levels you can study and is highly regarded by both universities and employers. Religion is central to the history of the world, society and our own lived experience, and the A Level requires a commitment to academic rigour as well as a desire to better understand the world around us. Students are given the opportunity to explore the fundamental questions of the world around us, such as: Is there a God? If so, what is he like? What happens after we die? These are the basis of the topics we will consider in depth that will prepare students for independent study at university.

## Course Content:

### Component 1: Philosophy of Religion and Ethics

**Philosophy of Religion** – Within Philosophy, we consider how reasonable it is to believe in religion; does it make sense to have faith without evidence? This has been a question pondered by the world's greatest mind for millennia. Topics studied include arguments for the existence of God; evil and suffering; religious experience; religious language; miracles, and self and life after death.

**Ethics** – Ethics allows us to question right from wrong, and how we know this is the case. Topics studied include Natural Moral Law; Situation Ethics; Aristotle's Virtue Ethics; Application of Ethical Theories to issues of Human Life and Death; Application of Ethical Theories to issues of Animal Life and Death; Meta-ethics; Conscience; Bentham + Kant.

## Course Content: Paper 2

**Unit 1 – Christianity** – Sources of Wisdom and Authority; God; Self, Death and the Afterlife; Good conduct and key moral principles; Expression of Religious Identity; Religion, Gender and Sexuality; Religion and Science; Religion and Secularisation; Religion and Religious Pluralism.

**Unit 2 – Dialogues** – this involves the Dialogue between Philosophy and Christianity, and Christianity and Ethics. These are longer 25 mark questions that ask you to apply your knowledge to a broader topic. These questions will be taught from the end of year 12.

## Method of Assessment & Examination Board

We use the AQA exam board. All assessment is exam based, with papers sat in summer of year 13.

Each exam is 3 hours, with paper 1 on Philosophy of Religion and Ethics: and Paper 2 on Christianity and Dialogues. Both exams will feature extended written essays. This means we will practice extended writing frequently within lessons, and students can expect regular feedback on their writing.

## Career Opportunities

Religious Studies at Sixth Form offers a wide range of career opportunities, making it an excellent choice for students interested in exploring the complexities of faith, ethics, and culture. Many graduates go on to pursue rewarding careers in education, becoming teachers or lecturers in schools and universities. Others find their vocation in chaplaincy, working in hospitals, prisons, or the armed forces, providing spiritual care and guidance. The subject also opens doors to roles in the charity and non-profit sectors, with many graduates choosing to work for organisations focused on social justice and humanitarian work. Religious Studies provides a strong foundation for those who wish to become counsellors, specialising in spiritual or ethical guidance, or cultural consultants, advising on religious and interfaith matters in a global context. Additionally, careers in writing and journalism, particularly on religious and ethical topics, as well as roles in public policy or diplomacy, are well within reach. Whether through academic research, interfaith dialogue, or leadership positions within religious institutions, studying Religious Studies encourages critical thinking, empathy, and a deep understanding of the values that shape societies.

# SOCIOLOGY

## Introduction

Sociology is a very successful and popular subject at Northampton Academy. This is what the OFSTED inspectors said: 'Teaching is good in the Sixth Form. The subject is managed well through planning. Response in lessons is good. Pupils are interested in the subject and co-operate well with each other'. Sociology is the study of human social behaviour. The subject investigates patterns of learned behaviour and how these are shaped and influenced by our parents, friends, schools, work and other institutions.

## Course Content

### **Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods**

- Socialisation, culture, identity; and social differentiation, power and stratification
- The role and functions of the education system, including its relationship to the economy and to class structure
- The significance of educational policies, including policies of selection, marketisation and privatisation and policies to achieve greater equality of opportunity or outcome
- The nature of science and the extent to which Sociology can be regarded as scientific.
- Qualitative and quantitative methods of research; research design

### **Paper 2: Topics in Sociology- Families and Households and Stratification and Differentiation**

- The relationship of the family to the social structure and social change
- Changing patterns of marriage, cohabitation, divorce, childbearing and the life course
- Demographic trends in the United Kingdom since 1900: birth rates, family size, ageing population
- Gender roles, domestic labour and power relationships within the family in contemporary society

### **Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods**

- Globalisation and crime in contemporary society; the media and crime; green crime; human rights and state crimes
- Crime control, surveillance, prevention and punishment, victims and the role of the criminal justice system and other agencies
- The relationship between theory and methods
- The theoretical, practical and ethical considerations influencing choice of topic, choice of method(s) and the conduct of research

## Method of Assessment

Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods - 2 hours written exam, 80 marks, 33.3%

Paper 2: Topics in Sociology - 2 hours written exam, 80 marks, 33.3%

Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods - 2 hours written exam, 80 marks, 33.3%

## Teaching Methods

The course is delivered through formally taught lessons with a major emphasis on interpersonal and collaborative group learning, discussion and independent learning.

## Career Opportunities

What can you do with Sociology? Sociology students from Northampton Academy have moved into quite a wide range of jobs and occupation, such as, Nursing, Nursery Nursing, Childcare, Teaching, Retail Management, Legal Professions and many others. Sociology is a stimulating and interesting subject; it will make you a more knowledgeable and informed student.

# BTEC EXTENDED CERTIFICATE SPORT

## Introduction

The BTEC Sport qualification encourages students to explore and experience the world of sport. Students are encouraged to investigate, analyse and evaluate concepts, theories in a work-related environment where all assignments are based upon situations and demands that exist in the workplace.

## Course Content

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport. (2 yr. course & equivalent to 1 A Level)

Unit 1 – Anatomy & Physiology (exam)

Unit 2 - Training and Programming for Fitness (exam)

Unit 3 - Professional Development in the Sports Industry (coursework)

Unit 5 – Fitness Testing for Sport (coursework)

## Additionalities

- SL3 – The Sports Leaders UK Level 3 award in Higher Sports Leadership is designed to develop the leadership skills of students. As a practical based course, students will build on their experiences from their Community Sports Leadership Award, and use skills within the wider/local community. This qualification also carries UCAS points.
- Personalised PE student kit to wear for 6<sup>th</sup> form.
- Practical trips away.
- Guest speakers looking at possible opportunities in Sport, beyond 6<sup>th</sup> form.

## Method of Assessment

Coursework based with two external examinations.

## Teaching Methods

The course is delivered through formally taught lessons together with the use of IT to complete coursework. Students are encouraged to develop their independent learning and are given opportunities to gain further qualifications during the course, e.g. SL3 award.

## Career Opportunities

Progression through these BTEC courses will provide suitable bases for further study in related subjects in Higher Education as well as a valuable preparation for careers in many areas of the sports industry. The BTEC coupled with other subjects also provides suitable bases for further study in related subjects in Higher Education as well as preparation for careers.

# HOW TO MAKE AN APPLICATION

Applications are made via an online platform. To make an application, click on the link that can be found on the Northampton Academy website. You will be taken to the application platform.

Select 'New Application' to start your application.



Please enter the email address of the student making the application.

Please follow the instructions to confirm the email address. Once this been done, you will be able to complete the application.

Please complete all fields in each section. When completing the 'Education' page, enter all the GCSE subjects that are being completed with the predicted grades. In order to select the A Level subjects and to submit the application, all the GCSE subjects must be entered. The platform will not allow you to select subjects that you have not met both the entry and subject specific criteria.

## Timeline

- ❖ Deadline for applications – **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026**.
- ❖ Applications reviewed and conditional offers sent by - **31<sup>st</sup> January 2026**.
- ❖ Independent Advice & Guidance Meetings – **March/April 2026 (date to be confirmed)**.
- ❖ Sixth Form Taster Day – **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2026**.
- ❖ GCSE Results Day – **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2026**. To secure a place at Northampton Academy, **you must enrol in person on Results Day**.

## Entry Requirements – September 2026

### A Levels General Requirements:

In order to study A levels, you will need a minimum of 5 GCSEs at grade 5 or equivalent including English Language AND Maths. In addition, some subjects require specific grades as provided below:

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Minimum Entry Requirement</i>
Art	6 in Art, demonstrable ability will be considered
Biology	7 in Biology (or 7-7 in Combined Science) & 7 in Maths
Business Studies	Distinction/Distinction* in BTEC Business and a 6 in English Language & 6 Maths. Or 6 Statistics
Chemistry	7 in Chemistry (or 7-7 in Combined Science) & 7 in Maths
Computer Science	6 in Maths & 6 in Computer Science
English Literature	6 in English Language and/or Literature
French / Spanish	6 in French / 6 in Spanish
Further Maths	8 in Maths
Geography	6 in Geography
History	6 in History
Maths	7 in Maths
Physics	7 in Physics (or 7-7 in Combined Science) & 7 in Maths
Politics	5 in a Humanities subject
Photography	6 in Art
Psychology	6 in English Language, 6 in Maths/Statistics & 6 in Biology (or 6-6 in Combined Science)
Religious Studies	6 in Humanities and 6 in English Language/Literature
Sociology	5 in a Humanities subject
Textiles	6 in Art or Design and Technology

### Level 3 Vocational General Requirements:

In order to study a Vocational level 3, you will need a minimum of 5 GCSEs at grade 5 or equivalent including English Language AND Maths. In addition, some subjects require specific grades as provided below:

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Entry requirement</i>
BTEC Business Extended Certificate	5 in GCSE Business or Merit in BTEC Business / Or 6 in Maths and a 6 in English Language. Demonstrable ability will be considered if you haven't studied the subject before.
BTEC Performing Arts	A 6 in GCSE Drama or a Pass in BTEC Drama or Performing Art – Candidates who don't meet this will be discussed on a case-by-case basis.
BTEC Sport Extended Certificate	5-5 in Combined Science (or 5 in Biology) and a Merit in BTEC Sport

For course information please go to :- <https://www.northampton-academy.org/Information/Sixth-Form>

Respect ■ Determination ■ Ambition ■ Tolerance ■ Integrity